

**Banning manufacture of Shahtoosh**

1439. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Shahtoosh has been a contraband since 1975 under the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species CITES and India is one of the 152 signatories to CITES, but Jammu and Kashmir is the only place in the world which permits manufacture of Shahtoosh shawls because of its special status;

(b) whether Government propose to take some action to ban manufacture of Shahtoosh in Jammu and Kashmir;

(c) whether Government have taken any serious steps to ban clandestine sale of Shahtoosh contraband; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Tibetan Antelope is included in Appendix-I of CITES (Convention on International Trade of Flora and Fauna) since 1979. Commercial trade in this species, its parts and derivatives including shahtoosh is prohibited by the Convention. India is one of the 151 signatories to the CITES. Being a Schedule-I species under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, manufacture of Shahtoosh shawl is prohibited through out the country, except Jammu & Kashmir who have their own Wild Life (Protection) Act. This Act does not prohibit manufacturing and dealing in Shahtoosh.

(b) Jammu & Kashmir Government have been requested to ban manufacture and dealing of Shahtoosh shawls. Their response is quite positive.

(c) and (d) Special raids to nab the persons indulging in smuggling of shahtoosh are carried out with the help of other enforcement

agencies including customs. The details of shahtoosh shawls seized during the last three years are as follows:

Year	Seizures
1998	65 pieces
1999	152 pieces
2000-till date	63 pieces

#### **Investigation into Zoo tragedy at Bhubaneshwar**

1440. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Chief Minister has urged the Union Government to set up a team of experts to investigate the mysterious deaths of 12 Royal Bengal tigers in the Nandankanan Zoological Park at Bhubaneshwar;

(b) if so, whether any preliminary investigations have been conducted into the circumstances in which large number of tigers died; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cause of death of tigers in Nandankanan is the disease called Trypanosomiasis which is caused by a protozoa called Trypanosoma. The reasons which might have led to flare up of the disease ranged from over-crowding of animals in the enclosures, ingress of livestock into the zoo because the breaches in the boundary wall, non-repair of fencing of White Tiger Safari that was damaged by the cyclone, unhygienic method of breeding, poor drainage **and** increased vector and loads due to bushes and shrubs in the vicinity of the enclosures and stress among the tigers.